

**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA ITEM TRANSMITTAL**

(1) DEPARTMENT Administrative Office	(2) MEETING DATE 12/16/2014	(3) CONTACT/PHONE Lisa Howe 781-5011	
(4) SUBJECT Update on current drought conditions confirming the continuing need for the March 11, 2014 proclamation of local emergency pursuant to Government Code section 8630. All Districts.			
(5) RECOMMENDED ACTION It is recommended that the Board receive the update on current drought conditions establishing the need to continue the proclamation of local emergency due to drought conditions in San Luis Obispo County.			
(6) FUNDING SOURCE(S) N/A	(7) CURRENT YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT \$0.00	(8) ANNUAL FINANCIAL IMPACT \$0.00	(9) BUDGETED? Yes
(10) AGENDA PLACEMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consent <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing (Time Est. ____ ) <input type="checkbox"/> Board Business (Time Est. ____ )			
(11) EXECUTED DOCUMENTS <input type="checkbox"/> Resolutions <input type="checkbox"/> Contracts <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinances <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A			
(12) OUTLINE AGREEMENT REQUISITION NUMBER (OAR) N/A		(13) BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REQUIRED? BAR ID Number: N/A <input type="checkbox"/> 4/5 Vote Required <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	
(14) LOCATION MAP N/A	(15) BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT? N/A	(16) AGENDA ITEM HISTORY <input type="checkbox"/> N/A    Date: <u>3/11/14, 4/8/14, 5/6/14, 6/3/14, 6/17/14, 7/15/14, 8/12/14, 9/9/14, 10/7/14, 11/4/14, and 12/2/14</u>  <a href="http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/admin/Drought_Update/County_Drought_Updates.htm">http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/admin/Drought_Update/County_Drought_Updates.htm</a>	
(17) ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REVIEW Guy Savage			
(18) SUPERVISOR DISTRICT(S) All Districts			

# County of San Luis Obispo



TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Administrative Office / Lisa Howe  
781-5011

DATE: 12/16/2014

SUBJECT: Update on current drought conditions confirming the continuing need for the March 11, 2014 proclamation of local emergency pursuant to Government Code section 8630. All Districts.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Board receive the update on current drought conditions establishing the need to continue the proclamation of local emergency due to drought conditions in San Luis Obispo County.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **Background**

On March 11, 2014, the Board adopted a resolution proclaiming a local emergency due to drought conditions in San Luis Obispo County. Section 8630 of the California Government Code and County Code Chapter 2.80.070 (2) require that the Board of Supervisors review the need for continuing the local emergency at least every 30 days until such emergency is terminated.

The last 30-day drought update was on December 2, 2014. Due to the Board of Supervisor's meeting schedule, staff scheduled this item in order to meet the 30-day review requirement. Because December's Monthly Drought Update was presented on December 2, this is an abridged update and does not include another Monthly Drought Update attachment. The next complete 30-day update is scheduled for January 6, 2015.

The Drought Task Force continues to meet regularly to coordinate drought monitoring, impact assessments, responses to emergency health and safety, and public communication and outreach. Drought conditions have remained relatively unchanged and there were no major actions requiring further discussion that have occurred since the last update.

### **Current Conditions**

Current drought conditions confirm the need to continue the proclamation of local emergency. The latest U.S. Drought Monitor report released December 2, 2014 indicates San Luis Obispo County remains at the D4 – Exceptional Drought intensity rating (Attachment 1). Approximately 94% of California is at a level D-2 Severe Drought or worse with 55% of the state at a D-4 intensity level. Countywide rainfall totals for the 2014-15 water year (July 2014 – June 2015) range from 9-16% of average annual rainfall totals. See Attachment 2 for additional information. Reservoir levels remain significantly lower than the average percentage capacity for this time of year including: Nacimiento 16% (59,050 acre feet); Lopez 42% (20,763 acre feet); Salinas 20% (4,828 acre feet); and Whale Rock 46% (17,744 acre feet) of capacity (Attachment 3).

### **Winter Outlook**

California, the central coast in particular, remains the driest region in the western half of the U.S. over the past 3 years. The severe drought is unlikely to abate much in the long term. This is the third consecutive dry year and most of the state has only seen 33-55% of normal precipitation since the end of 2011. Even with the possibility of an increase in precipitation, it is likely that reservoir outflows will continue to exceed inflows. According to county data, even with the recent rainstorms, outflows continued to exceed inflows in county reservoirs since the last update. It would take several months of well above normal precipitation to erase the precipitation deficit which has accrued during the last 3 years.

Since this appears unlikely at this time, drought conditions will likely persist.

### **Countywide Data Collection**

The Drought Task Force continues to utilize a number of survey tools and data sources to coordinate drought monitoring, impact assessments, responses to emergency health and safety, and public communication and outreach.

#### Domestic Wells

The number of dry groundwater wells, small streams, springs, and creeks are increasing as the drought continues. The County continues to receive calls from individuals who are experiencing problems with their domestic wells; however, determining how many wells have gone dry is proving to be challenging. State agencies are reporting this is a problem statewide. The Governor's Drought Task Force created an online intake form for use by local, state, or tribal and federal agencies to document domestic water issues. Individuals with domestic water issues are encouraged to contact County Environmental Health at (805) 781-5544.

In addition, the County Drought Task Force created a supplemental anonymous survey. The survey does not ask for any identifying information and is intended to support our request for federal disaster assistance for individuals. Individuals who wish to remain anonymous are encouraged to complete the supplemental survey online at [www.slocounty.ca.gov/admin/Drought\\_Update](http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/admin/Drought_Update) or by phone by calling (805) 781-5011.

#### Drought Business Impact survey

The San Luis Obispo County Workforce Investment Board (WIB) continues to gather information on local drought-related job impacts. This is part of a statewide survey by the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency (LWDA) as part of an ongoing online survey to inform the Governor's Drought Relief Task Force of the drought's ripple effects. The WIB's Drought Business Impact survey is available at <http://sloworkforce.com/drought-survey/>.

### **Assistance Programs**

The County continues to identify assistance programs to help rural communities, businesses and individuals impacted by California's ongoing drought conditions. Information regarding drought assistance for rural homeowners has been placed on the County Drought Conditions and Water Conservation webpage. Rural Development, an agency of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), delivers a number of programs to help rural communities, businesses and individuals impacted by California's ongoing drought conditions.

### **Emergency Actions**

The proclamation continues to provide authority for unforeseen needed actions. As also noted, proclamation provides a statement to State and Federal agencies of the seriousness of the County's situation.

The County has taken no new emergency actions specific to the drought in this reporting period.

### **OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT/IMPACT**

At the onset of the Governor's declaration and under the direction of the County Administrative Officer, a County Drought Task Force was formed. The Drought Task Force is comprised of multiple County departments, including: the Administrative Office, Office of Emergency Services, Public Works Department, General Services, County Parks, County Fire (CAL FIRE), Agricultural Commissioner, Planning and Building, Farm Advisor, Health Agency, and County Counsel. All member departments provided input for this report.

County OES continues to be in regular contact with Cal OES to receive and provide situation status information.

The Public Works Department continues to coordinate with local water purveyors and cities.

Public Health is coordinating with relevant State agencies, including the State California Department of Public Health and Emergency Medical Services Authority Health Coordination Center.

### **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

The long-term financial impact on the local economy, including the demand on County and other legal agency services, cannot be forecast at this time. The County continues to track drought-related costs.

## **RESULTS**

The Board's review of this staff report fulfills the Board's duty to review the need to continue the proclamation of a local emergency due to the existence of drought conditions pursuant to Government Code section 8630. No other Board action is necessary. Maintaining the proclamation of local emergency will continue to allow for the Public Works Department and other agencies to take immediate actions needed by allowing temporary reduction of certain regulatory and purchasing requirements. This will also permit County staff to assist in drought-related work and tasks outside their normal scope of duties in the capacity of Disaster Service Workers under Government Code section 3100. In addition, acceptance of the update confirms the continuing existence of severe drought conditions and will also serve as notice to the State of our dire conditions and a reminder to all of the serious drought conditions facing the County and State.

Note: Any regulations issued because of the local drought emergency would be subject to Board approval. The local emergency proclamation adopted by the Board on March 11, 2014, will remain in effect until terminated by your Board.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Attachment 1 - US Drought Monitor
2. Attachment 2 - Rainfall and Reservoir Update
3. Attachment 3 - Local Reservoir Conditions Image